PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] JANUARY 31, 1942 [No. 80

LECTURE LXXX.

A NEW YEAR REVIEW.

Vernon Bartlett (in "Britain Speaks" Series).

[*Mr. Vernon Bartlett needs no introduction. All that need be said is that when Mr. Bartlett is optimistic, we can afford to be! Ed.*]

Nobody can feel completely cheerful after a week which has seen the loss of Manila and the steady Japanese advance through Malaya towards Singapore. Nevertheless, it does seem to me that the first week of 1942 has been extraordinarily encouraging for the allies. It is very humiliating to read of places that have been British or American ever since we first heard their names coming under the control of the Japanese, but the danger of too much dispersal of our strengths is perhaps even greater than that of losing for the time being, valuable naval or air bases and wealthy rubber plantations and oil fields.

When I was invalided out of the army during the last war I drifted into journalism. My job was to pick up what news I could about foreign affairs for a great news agency, and I remember even now how week after week allied or neutral diplomats I met grumbled about the delay in agreeing upon a Supreme Commander-in-Chief on the Western front. It was not until the great German attack of March 1918 that the British and French Governments, and later the Governments of the United States, Italy and Belgium, placed the command in

the hands of one man, Marshal Foch. **It does seem to me a remarkable thing that in less than a month after the American intervention in the war agreement should have been reached on Supreme Command in the South-West Pacific**: other arrangements for the other principal battle zones, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, are I suppose on the way.

The appointment of Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek as Supreme Commander in China and the neighbouring countries is also surely extraordinarily important. He once wrote "the decisive battles are still fought by infantry", and helped on by the effect of the Japanese attacks he has gone amazingly far towards bringing national unity in a country which is the home of one quarter of the human race. He will never lack infantry for his decisive battles. But Chiang Kai-Shek has done more than that; he has turned soldiering from a despised profession into a glorious one. I still remember dining one evening in Hankow, and being told by my almost incredibly beautiful and graceful Chinese neighbour that her arm was very stiff because she's spent all the morning learning to throw hand grenades. That was four years ago, and we are still arguing here in England whether women should be taught how to use a rifle. Four years ago Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek was already developing guerilla warfare, which has since been developed so successfully by the Russians behind the German lines. This new Commander-in-Chief has in fact developed exactly the methods of warfare that are most likely to be useful against the Japanese in Thailand and Indo-China. Incidentally, since the name Thailand means "land of the free", I propose to go back to the former name Siam now that that country is come under Japanese control. The Japanese are able to get much of their success in Malaya owing to the white-men's difficulty in distinguishing them from other orientals, and this helps them in their work of infiltration and espionage. **But nearly ten per cent of the population of Siam is Chinese. There are nearly half-a-million Chinese in Indo-China, so that even the greatest expert would be unable to tell you how many people in the streets of Bangkok or Hanoi were secretly supporters or agents of Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek.** Provided we can continue to use the port of Rangoon and the Burma Road, it should be possible for the British and Americans both to send Chiang Kai-shek the arms with which his innumerable infantry can win decisive battles in China, and to bring down to Burma a good many Chinese soldiers to take part in the job, first of cutting Japan'

lines of communication from Siam towards Singapore, and second of mopping up the Japanese who got so very dangerously near that important naval base. There's another reason why the decision to appoint Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek as Commander-in-Chief seems to be a wise one: for well over four years the Chinese have resisted the Japanese attack—if it were not for that resistance the Japanese would be very much stronger to-day. They now control vast new resources of tin and rubber and oil, and it must be General Tojo's ambition to be able to remove his troops from China in order to follow up his advantages in the South-West Pacific. **It will not be surprising, therefore, if he were to offer peace to the Chinese on terms so favourable that a lesser man than Chiang Kai-Shek might be persuaded to accept them.**

I said at the beginning of this talk that despite the bad news from the Far-East the year had begun well for the Allies. We have not only this unity of command, we also have the Atlantic Charter and last week's extension of it. Thirty-two Governments signed the Treaty of Versailles; already twenty-six Governments have agreed in Washington to use all their resources in this war to defeat Hitler, and to refuse any offer of a separate peace. I see that one broadcast from Germany called the Washington agreement "a bogus prospectus"; another calls it "a propaganda stunt and not a particularly ingenious one at that". The Japanese call it "a foolish enterprise". **If it is a propaganda stunt it will have at least the merit of reminding the German people how for the second time in a generation they are massing against themselves the public opinion of the world.** And not only public opinion. Three months ago when I came back from Russia I ventured to make two prophecies; one was that Moscow would not fall, and the other was that as long as Mr. Stalin was prepared to fight, the people of Russia would fight with him. Mr. Eden and those who accompanied him to Moscow have returned with the conviction that Mr. Stalin is as realistic as any statesman in Europe. He knows perfectly well just how far the Japanese are to be trusted, but he also knows that the most valuable service **the Soviet armies can render in the coming months is to give the Germans no opportunity to do what they did last year, namely to send a lot of soldiers into the factories during the winter months, in order to produce the maximum amount of munitions for their offensive in the Spring.**

One of the things which most encouraged Mr. Eden on his visit to Moscow was the amount of evidence that Hitler had never anticipated that his men would have to fight a winter campaign. Russian soldiers are so padded that they look rather like polar bears and that their arms stick out almost at right angles, but they are able to withstand the worst winter frost. The German soldiers on the other hand were so ill-equipped that some of the experts doubt whether they could withstand the winter conditions, even if they were involved in no further fighting, and the Russians will see to it that they will be given no rest. What applies to men also applies to machines; proper precautions haven't been taken to see that they can stand up to the winter temperature; the carburettors don't work, the oil freezes, hundreds of valuable vehicles have to be left by the roadside. Now the Russians themselves are very careful to emphasize that this is a German retreat, and not a German rout, but at Kaluga and other places on the front they have dealt successfully with the picked storm troopers of the German army. The factories which they've transferred from Western Russia to the Ural mountains or the Caucasus seem to be coming into production unexpectedly quickly, and Mr. Stalin, I understand, was fairly confident that he could keep the German production down during the winter, while Soviet production went up again.

But if all this is so, it means that both we and Hitler will have to alter our plans. The Nazis will have to devote most of their effort next Spring to an attempt to destroy the Forces of Russia. They daren't leave so vast an army with nothing but a few German divisions and some hundreds of miles of dead flat forests between it and Berlin, while they go off and attack elsewhere; **and the desire to attack Great Britain before American help makes a successful attack impossible will be very great indeed.**

But Russian activity will also mean that the Nazis cannot make the most of the favourable winter weather for campaigning in the Mediterranean. Their defeats in Russia have raised such a commotion throughout the occupied countries that they dare not reduce the garrisons that hold them down. Therefore, although Rommel fights on stubbornly it's difficult to see how he can be reinforced in Libya, and how the war can be spread to wider areas of Africa, unless Hitler can first obtain control of the French fleet. If he should do that he might still turn the

Libyan campaign into a long, costly one for the British, and possibly postpone the transfer of British strength in the Mediterranean battle zone to the Pacific.

One would imagine then that Marshal Pétain is destined again to appear in the head-lines. He may have to choose, and choose very shortly, between the last surrender, surrender of the French fleet, and an attempt to resist, which may end in the military occupation of the whole of France. Judging from what one hears of the present state of French public opinion, either decision will give Hitler a headache.

It's difficult to see how with these problems ahead of Hitler we've dared to transfer much of our own force from the Mediterranean and Atlantic War zones to the Pacific, even though the Australians and other citizens of the British Commonwealth East of Suez may feel, and perhaps rightly feel, that we in England have underestimated their danger in the past. When I suggest that, I am thinking less of the possibility that Hitler will make a final and desperate attack against the British Isles, than of the possibility that developments in the Mediterranean might give us a chance, in co-operation with the Russians on the Eastern European front, of getting in an attack against the Axis powers—the European members of the Axis—from which they couldn't recover.

The problem then seems to be this; in the past the Axis powers have gained their victories because they had over-whelming numbers and over-whelming equipment. Bit by bit we have been catching up on equipment, now with our Russian allies in Europe and our Chinese allies in Asia, we actually have the advantage in number, how and how soon can we increase our equipment and distribute it so that that advantage could be turned to good effect? I don't know, but I do know that I don't envy the men who must take these decisions.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

24—1—42 to 30—1—42.

Russia.—The tale of Russian successes grows continuously. The great counter-offensive started about seven weeks ago has lost none of its momentum. Already an extent of territory, more than 5,000 square miles has been wrested from the enemy. During the week under report

UVAROVO, DUBNO, ANDREAPOL, TOROPETS, and ZAPADNAYA DVINA have been taken, and RJEV has been encircled. The Russians have also smashed the enemy between LENINGRAD and SMOLENSK, the thrust extending from KHOLM in the north to TOROPA in the south. A wedge—some 70 miles wide has been driven in threatening the LENINGRAD-UKRAINE Railway, the Nazi life-line for the transport of troops between the northern and southern sectors. NELIDOVO on the RJEV-VELIKIYELUKI line has been captured, and the victorious forces are heading towards SMOLENSK. It seems unlikely that the Germans will be able to make a stand even before SMOLENSK where they wish to halt for the duration of the winter.

Libya.—In the Libyan front British forces have been withdrawn east of JEDABAYA, the centre of gravity having shifted from EL AGHEILA, to MSUS, 150 miles north-east. A reconnaissance in force which General Rommel made some days ago east of MERSA BREGA, either to obtain a closer view of Imperial dispositions or to upset their preparations for an impending attack, has since developed into a major engagement in the JEDABAYA—ANTELAT—SAUNNU triangle and has now extended to MSUS. These operations, are not so much in the nature of a set battle as a jockeying for position, and resemble a naval engagement depending upon speed and manoeuvrability. General Rommel who has barely a third of his army left has received some reinforcements, but General Auchinleck who maintains the command of the air is bent upon the complete destruction of the enemy's remaining strength.

Far East.—The Far-Eastern situation may be summed up as follows:—

Burma.—The raids on RANGOON have been renewed, with minimum damage to us and serious loss to the enemy. In one raid for instance the enemy's loss amounted to 7 planes out of 7 bombers and 9 fighters. American (A. V. G.) bombers and the R. A. F., the 'Silent Service of the Far-East' have been attacking with a heroism reminiscent of the Battle of BRITAIN. Chinese troops are mopping up the YUNNAN and Siamese frontiers; Chinese reinforcements are pouring in. The R. A. F. has raided BANGKOK.

MERGUI has been evacuated, and MOULMEIN is now under the control of our military authorities.

General Wavell has paid a visit to RANGOON and conferred with the authorities.

Malaya.—The enemy has occupied BATU PAHAT (West) and effected some landings at ENDAU (East). Fierce fighting is in progress at KLUANG (centre) and SENGGARANG (West). On the 26th H. M. S. *Vampire* and H. M. S. *Thanet* intercepted off ENDAU a Japanese force of one cruiser and 3 destroyers and sank one destroyer and damaged another. In the action H. M. S. *Thanet* was herself sunk.

Netherlands East Indies.—The outstanding success of the week is the partial destruction, in the straits of Macassar, of a large Japanese convoy of a hundred warships and transports from which troops were being landed at BALIK PAPAN (oil centre on the east coast of DUTCH BORNEO). Allied naval and air forces, including American cruisers and destroyers, flying fortresses and N. E. I. submarines took a heavy toll of the enemy—the heaviest he has so far saffered in any single engagement. On a conservative estimate the enemy's losses amount to 11 ships 'certainly' sunk, 6 'probably' sunk and 11 'seriously' damaged. A battle-ship is believed to be one of the victims. According to the latest radio announcement, the total loss is 46 including warships and transports. In the usual Axis way the Japanese admit the loss of four transports only. The action which began four days ago is continuing.

The Philippines.—Japanese forces continue to land in Subig Bay and on the west coast of the BATAN PENINSULA, Mac. Arthur's fierce counter-attack on the right flank has relieved the pressure on his left. Appreciable aid is given to the defenders by the 'Moros' or Muslim inhabitants of the islands, who are skilled in the use of their deadly 'bolos' or swords.

China.—Chinese forces have recaptured TAMSHUI—13 miles east of the CANTON—KOWLOON railway and have also taken LUNGKON and PINKHAN, thus driving the Japanese back on to the frontier, 22 miles from KOWLOON.

The Chinese made their first daylight raid on Thursday last on HANOI in INDO-CHINA, taking the Japanese entirely by surprise. The enemy lost 75 planes.

Oceania.—Japanese troops have landed in RABAUL on the island of NEW BRITAIN.

An American submarine has torpedoed and probably sunk a Japanese aircraft-carrier. Another U. S. motor-torpedo boat has sunk an enemy vessel of 5,000 tons in Subig Bay.

Two merchant ships have been sunk in the Bay of Bengal by enemy action without warning, but no Indian evacuees have been lost in these encounters.

The Pan American conference of 21 countries, which met at RIO DI JANEIRO has adopted the following formula of rupture with the Axis. *Firstly*, the concerned countries consider every act of aggression against any *one* of themselves as an act of aggression against *all* of them; *Secondly*, they reaffirm their solidarity for purposes of reciprocal protection; *Thirdly* 'subject to the procedure laid down by internal laws and taking into consideration the position and the circumstances of each country,' they recommend the rupture of relations with JAPAN, GERMANY and ITALY–with JAPAN, because she was the first to attack one of these States, and with GERMANY and ITALY because they had declared war on an American country; *Fourthly*, they would consult one another before reestablishing their ruptured relations.

The Economic Committee of the Pan-American Conference has unanimously approved the rupture of economic relations with the Axis.

The Political Commission of the American Conference has adopted a 'Rio Charter' based on the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, BOLIVIA and BRAZIL have broken off diplomatic relations with the Axis.

Joint Action.—An Anglo-American War-Council has been set up, with Sir John Dill as chief British representative and General Marshal as chief U. S. representative. A Joint U. S. and British Raw Materials Munitions Assignments and Shipping Adjustments Board has also been constituted.

U. S. Troops have been landed in a port in NORTH IRELAND. They are the first contingent of American forces to arrive in EUROPE in the present war. Greeting them warmly, Sir Archibald Sinclair declared, 'their safe arrival marks a new stage in the world war, and is a gloomy portent for Hitler; nor will the significance be lost to General Tojo. Perhaps you will join with us in withstanding the assaults of the common enemy on this Island fortress. From here you will assuredly sally forth with us to carry the war into his territory and to free the oppressed peoples of EUROPE'. It will thus be seen that the object of the American Expeditionary Force is two-fold; to guard BRITAIN and to invade the enemy in his own territory.

In a Press message President Roosevelt has significantly revealed that there were at present 8 or 10 American Expeditionary Forces outside the UNITED STATES.

The U. S. Programme contemplates the production in the current year of planes and tanks, three times as many as in the past 18 months and equal to Hitler's production in *all* the years before 1939. The output of tanks will be three times last year, that of guns five times, and of planes, together with BRITAIN, in excess of the combined Axis production. The U. S. army will be increased six-fold in man-power, and thirty-two fold in munitions.

The U. S. Congress has received a 17,722,565,474 dollars—Appropriations Bill—the largest in its history, to finance its naval requirements. There will be 'round-the-clock' production at 7 days a week and 24 hours a day, and its first aim will be to construct 950,000 tons of warships, 500 small craft and 1,799 miscellaneous craft.

The U. S. Senate has sanctioned 12,556,672,474 dollars for the Army Appropriation Bill, providing funds for 23,000 planes and 10,000 trainers.

Naval.—On Wednesday the Spanish ship *Navemar* was sunk by an enemy U-boat, and the Germans, as usual, have laid the blame on a British submarine.

H. M. S. *Barham* of 31,000 tons has been sunk by enemy action.

Vote of Confidence.—In asking for a vote of confidence of the House of Commons on Tuesday Mr. Churchill said:

"Three or four months ago we had to cope with the following situation. The German invaders were advancing, blasting their way through Russia. The Russians were resisting with the utmost heroism, but no one could tell what would happen to Leningrad and Moscow or whether Rostov would fall, or where the German winter line would be established.

"No one can tell now where it will be established, but now the boot is on the other foot.

"Cyrenaica is regained; it has still to be held. We have not succeeded in destroying Rommel's army, but nearly two-thirds of it are wounded, prisoners or dead.

"And not only has Rommel lost nearly three times our losses on the battle-field, but in the blue waters of the Mediterranean, thanks to the enterprise of the Royal Navy, our submarines and air

force have drowned a large number of reinforcements which have been continually sent, and this process has had further important successes during the last few days.

"So, whether you call it victory or not, it must be dubbed at the present moment—for I will not make a promise—a highly profitable transaction (*laughter*).

"It looks as if we were in for a very bad time. Provided we all stand together, and provided we throw in the last spasms of our strength, it also looks more than it ever did before, as if we were going to win (*cheers*).

"Next, we have formed this League of 26 United Nations, whereof the principal partners at the present time, are Great Britain, the British Empire, the United States, the U. S. S. R., and the Republic of China, together with the stout-hearted Dutch.

"This Union aims at the destruction of Hitlerism in all its forms and manifestations in all corners of the globe. We will march forward together until every vestige of this has been extirpated from the life of the world.

"Thirdly, we have addressed ourselves to the war against Japan, and to the measures to be taken to defend Australia, New Zealand, the Dutch East Indies, Malaya and India against Japanese attacks or invasion.

"Fourthly, we have established a vast common pool of weapons, and munitions, and raw materials, and shipping, an outline of which has been set forth in a series of memoranda which I have initialled with the President.

"The most important of all is the multiplication of joint tonnage at sea. American programmes, already vast, have been increased in the proportion of 100 to nearly 160. If they are completed—as completed, I believe, they will be—we shall be able to move across the ocean spaces in 1943, two, three and even four times as large armies as we are able to handle at sea at the present time.

"And then, later on, from the great areas in Australia and India and in the Dutch East Indies, we shall be able to set about our task in good style in 1943.

"The defeat of Japan will not necessarily entail the defeat of Hitler, whereas the defeat of Hitler will enable the whole force of the United Nations to be concentrated on the defeat of Japan.

"But there is no question of regarding the war in the Pacific as a secondary operation."

The House of Commons has passed a vote of confidence in Mr. Churchill's Government by 464 votes to one.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
19—1—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy motor transport and communications in the EL AGHEILA region.			
SICILY.			
The aerodrome at COMISO and CATANIA.	Many planes set on fire.		
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Front.		5 planes	16 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over MUAR area.			1 fighter.
Barges at the month of MUAR river.	Many Sunk.		
An aerodrome at KUALA LUMPUR.			
THAILAND.			
The aerodrome at MESHOD.			2 planes.
PACIFIC.			
A Japanese cruiser and a large tanker 100 miles from JOLO.	Cruiser sunk. The tanker set on fire.		
20—1—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The Naval base at EMDEN.	Many big fires started.	4 planes.	
LIBYA.			
Barrack buildings at HOMS.			
Lorries on the Coastal road.			
Motor transport at ZUARA.			1 plane
The harbour area and a sea-plane base at TRIPOLI.			
GREECE.			
Military objectives at SALAMIS.			
CRETE.			
HERAKLION.			
PATRAS (in the Gulf of CORINTH).			
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Front.		1 plane.	7 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy-occupied aerodromes in MALAYA. **Aircraft, Hangars and aerodrome buildings** at KUANTAN. **The aerodrome** at KUALA LUMPUR.		1 plane.	
BURMA—THAI Border.			
The aerodrome at ROHAING.			
21—1—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes.)			
DAY :—			
Several military objectives including factories, army huts and a goods train in northern FRANCE.			
NIGHT :—			
The ports of BREMEN and EMDEN			
Enemy aerodromes in HOLLAND			
The docks at BOULOGNE.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy motor transport and other objectives in the EL AGHEILA—JADABAYA region.			
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Front.		8 planes.	23 planes.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
21—1—42 (Wednesday)—cont.			
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy motor transport north of PARIT BULONG.	Many vehicles damaged.		
PACIFIC.			
Reconnaissance over South-west PACIFIC war zones.			
22—1—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Military targets at MUNSTER.	Large fires started.		
Enemy aerodromes in HOLLAND.			
The docks at DUNKIRK.			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
An enemy aerodrome in Northern FRANCE.			
A Supply vessel off FRISIAN Islands.	Vessel hit.		
LIBYA.			
Concentrations of enemy motorised forces north of WADI FAREGH.			
Air combat over LIBYA.		2 planes.	3 planes.
The harbour and naval vessels sheltering there at TRIPOLI.	A naval vessel set on fire; the flag ship silenced.	1 plane.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft and air combats on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		8 planes.	23 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Air combats over YONGPENG area.			1 fighter
SARAWAK—(N. E. I.)			
KUCHING (Capital of SARAWAK).			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
PACIFIC.			
Enemy ships and warships in MACASSOR Straits.	1 war ship, 2 cruisers and a transport hit.		
23—1—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
The harbour at TRIPOLI.	Big fires started.		
Store dumps, buildings and other objectives at BUERAT EL HSUN. **Enemy motorised units** near SIRTE.		1 plane.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Eastern Front.		6 planes.	11 planes.
Enemy positions and communications behind the Front.			
FAR EAST—MALAYA (By American and British planes).			
Enemy troops and transport south of LABIS.			
PACIFIC.			
Enemy convoy in MACASSAR Straits.	2 transports sunk.		
Japanese ship concentrations near BALIK PAPAN (BORNEO).	2 ships and 1 destroyer seriously hit.		
INDO-CHINA.			
The aerodromes in INDO-CHINA.			
24—1—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No informations available as to day and night operations.			

Targets	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
LIBYA.			
Concentrations of enemy motor transport vehicles and tanks at ELGARA.			
Offensive sweeps over the JADABAYA—SAUNNU—MSUS areas.			3 planes. Many more damaged.
Objectives including buildings, barracks and motor transport at TRIPOLI.			
SICILY.			
The aerodrome at COMISO.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
A large enemy convoy in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	Battleship and cruiser hit. A big ship sunk.		
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Front.		11 planes.	39 planes.
FAR EAST—THAILAND. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and docks at BANGKOK.			
INDO-CHINA.			
HANOI.			
MALAYA.			
Military objectives at LABIS.			
25—1—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy motorised and armoured units between JADABAYA and ANTELAT. **Motor transport on the road** between NOFILA and PHILLAENORUM. **Military objectives** at JADABAYA and EL AGHEILA.	Many vehicles destroyed.	1 plane.	3 planes.
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		5 planes.	20 planes.

Targets	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Military objectives at BATU PAHAT.			
An aerodrome at KUALA LUMPUR.			
PACIFIC.			
Enemy convoy off MACASSAR Straits.	Many cruisers hit; and transports sunk.		

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
20—1—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
SINGAPORE.	Slight damage.	3 planes.	2 planes.
PHILIPPINES.			
Support to land forces in BATAN Peninsula.		3 planes.	
NEW GUINEA.			
RABAUL.		3 planes. Many more damaged.	
21—1—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
The aerodrome at MERSING.			
BORNEO—(N. E. I.).			
An aerodrome in BORNEO.			
22—1—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Two points on the East and South-east coast of ENGLAND.	No damage or casualties.	1 bomber.	

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
22—1—42 (Thursday)—*cont.*			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—MALAYA (By Jap planes).			
SINGAPORE.		8 planes. 4 planes. damaged.	
BURMA.			
RANGOON. MOULMEIN.			
SUMATRA—(N. E. I.).			
Ships off the coast of North SUMATRA.			
23—1—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY:—			
A costal town in East ANGLIA.	Several houses destroyed,		
NIGHT:—			
No air activity.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.		1 bomber and 1 fighter.	
FAR EAST—BURMA (By Jap planes).			
RANGOON.		21 planes. Many more damaged.	
SUMATRA—(N. E. I.)			
The aerodrome at PELAMBANG.			
24—1—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
RUSSIA.			
MOSCOW.		3 planes	
FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
RANGOON.		7 bombers and 9 fighters; many more damaged,	

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.			
DUTCH EAST INDIES.			
SAMARINDA.			
25—1—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Coastal places in South-west ENGLAND.	Some houses damaged.	1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA			
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
JOHORE.	Driven away.		
SINGAPORE.			
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.			
AMBOINA, SORONG and NAMLEA.			
26—1—42 (Monday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Northern IRELAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN			
MALTA.			
RUSSIA.			
MOSCOW.			4 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA (By Jap planes).			
SINGAPORE.			
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.			
An aerodrome in the outer provinces.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

CLEAR THINKING. There are 26 nations in the grand alliance. Great accession of strength to the Allies as this public confederation represents, there are certain inherent weaknesses which Axis propaganda is naturally being quick to exploit, notably the fact that the signatories are democratic and free instead of totalitarian and servile, and therefore jealous of their prerogatives of free opinion and free expression of it.

The distorting of the issues of the war, and misdirection of the energies of as many of the Allied peoples as possible, is an obvious activity for the publicists of BERLIN, TOKYO and ROME. Forget SMOLENSK and look at SINGAPORE, they shout. Forget the Atlantic and look at the Pacific. Forget LIBYA and look at AUSTRALIA. And they go on shouting it in the hope that SINGAPORE and the Chinese and the Australians and the Filippinos will start accusing BRITAIN and AMERICA and RUSSIA of selfishly leaving them—yes, and INDIA, too, to judge by Dr. Goebbels' latest efforts—to stave off ruin by themselves.

It is a comparatively easy game. And it is not only the illiterate and poorly-propagandised masses in widespread and distant danger-spots who can thus be turned into plaintive self-pitiers! With all such we plead once more with all possible emphasis to see the war big, and think as clearly as Mr. Roosevelt did on the very day that JAPAN launched her treacherous onslaught.

Let them ask themselves WHO is the principal enemy, the predominant instigator, conductor and residuary legatee of the present appalling chaos? CAN ITALY stand if GERMANY falls? CAN JAPAN alone face the A. B. C. D. powers if Hitler and the Nazis are destroyed? WHO would benefit most if by the slackening or diversion of the terrific pressure now being brought to bear on the Germans in EUROPE and the Mediterranean, in order to reinforce opposition to the marauding Japs, both the core and the mass of the once irresistible Wehrmacht were allowed to consolidate and recover for another major spring offensive?

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TRUST THE NATIONS' CHOICES! Fortunately the conduct of the war by the United Nations is in shrewd and experienced hands. Long before they had all the outside help now available, the British War Cabinet proved itself unamenable to popular clamour. Mr. Roosevelt's government is displaying a similar resolution and pertinacity.

Who now hears of the much-demanded "western invasion" of GERMANY for instance? Can one think that the projected German invasion of EGYPT

could have been turned into the victorious British drive to AGEDABAYA, if great forces of men, equipment and vessels had been withdrawn at the popular clamour for the huge and hazardous enterprise of a continental invasion? Does anyone think that MOSCOW and LENINGRAD and ROSTOV could have been saved—and the triumphant enemy rolled back disheartened, ill-fed and ill-clothed in the depths of the Russian winter—if the vital supplies for the now victoriously reorganised Russians from BRITAIN and AMERICA had not been redoubled and frantically expedited, on the grounds that they were wanted for a data-less gamble?

No—and let us leave it to the men who made these vital decisions (or, if you like, the contrariwise decision in 1940, to send almost unspareable forces and machines to EGYPT, precisely when everything indicated a mightier need for them at Home) to deal with the present serious but temporary difficulties out East in their own fashion. THEY know where to hit the enemy where it hurts most—and there is no doubt whatever now that Supreme-Generalissimo-of-all-Commanders-in-Chief, Hitler, is taking a hammering that will be as crippling to his reputation and prestige as it is to his material and human resources.

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AND INDIA?

" As Hitler struggles to staunch the wounds that threaten to bleed his great armies to exhaustion, few things would give him greater comfort than the thought that the Japanese attack had been sufficiently spectacular to distort the judgment of those responsible for the defence of INDIA in the grand pattern of the Allied effort." Lt.-Col. Knox's recent insistence that Hitler was the main enemy has been seized on for perversion into the sinister suggestion that the British are going to cut their losses in the FAR EAST and "abandon INDIA" in order to deal with the Germans in the West.

Tripe!! Wavell and Auchinleck and Hutton, Chinag Kai-Shek and Brett and MacArthur are not names that sound like 'cutting losses'. Nor does Mr. Churchill's "SINGAPORE will be held". Nor do the exploits of the now fast-increasing Allied air forces in the East, and the 35 (or better) percentage of crashed Jap machines over RANGOON! We cannot expect miracles. It is perfectly clear that the Allies intend to defend their positions in the FAR EAST and the MIDDLE EAST until the counter-offensive can be mounted. What we can and do expect is that INDIA shall realise that she is now *in the war* at last, and that her job is to work as never before, co-operate as never before, obey as never before and perhaps defend as never before, with the absolute certainty that courageous effort will be fully rewarded, and uncomplaining sacrifice fully compensated, in ultimate victory.

THE TWENTY REPUBLICS. I hope no one has missed the importance of the recent unanimity finally produced like a rather refractory rabbit out of the conjuror's hat by Mr. Cordell Hull, at the end of an extended meeting in the hills of Petropolis, behind that magnificent bay of RIO DE JANEIRO. It is true that all the 20 Republics don't want to declare war on the Axis *ekdum*, let alone on all the junior partners in that unscrupulous combine. But the nett result is an augury of pleasing importance, when one considers how these various and sometimes rival polities are placed geographically, industrially and sentimentally.

One (MEXICO) is in North AMERICA, three of them are on the Caribbean Sea, six of them—the small ones—are in Central AMERICA and the other ten in South AMERICA. There are large and important German interests in ARGENTINA; CHILE's public services and military and naval tuition have long been in German hands; there are considerable Japanese communities in PERU and BRAZIL (and a lot of Germans in the latter as well), and there are—or were—smaller colonies of Japanese in both MEXICO and CHILE. And ALL these States HAVE A COASTLINE! They produce various of the world's valued commodities, but for the moment this coastline business—ports, in fact—constitute the principal issue.

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NEUTRALITY and NON-BELLIGERENCY. "Every schoolboy (modern) knows" what it chiefly meant to the Germans to occupy NORWAY, HOLLAND and FRANCE. It meant large ports, small ports, harbours and havens on the Atlantic seaboard; it meant bases for restocking, repairing and refuelling anything from a mosquito-craft or submarine to a merchant-raider or a battleship.

That was when the U. S. A. were not in the war. Now that AMERICA is in the war......well, RIO and MONTEVIDEO, VALPARAISO and CALLAO, CONCEPCION and LIMA, to say nothing of odd ports in COLOMBIA and VENEZUELA, or in COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, and HONDURAS (with their proximity to the Panama Canal) increase a hundred fold in importance as possible bases for the formidable fifth-column machinations of Axis embassies and consulates, working in all the sanctity of Neutrality!

True, even neutrality was worth 'diplomatising' for early on, and the LIMA Conference was a useful beginning. But 'neutrality' has these two years been a teaser for international lawyers, and if your street begins to burn it is hard to be strictly neutral between the fire and the fire-brigade. One of the things Mr. Cordell Hull has now done, therefore, is to get AMERICA

recognised by the Twenty Republics as a *non-belligerent*, to say nothing of persuading a considerable number of States previously backward in this respect, to *break off diplomatic relations* with the Axis Powers.

It may seem rather odd that the very fact of AMERICA *going* to war has induced so many States to declare that she is *not* at war, but the nett result is that American vessels can now use all the important ports in Central and South AMERICA, on both seaboards, just as they like, while Axis Powers or their satellites may not. (It is difficult to ascertain whether CANADA which is equally an 'American' power, has had the same neighbourly facilities offered her, but it would be an anomaly if she were not).

The breaking off of diplomatic relations will have further unpleasant effects for our enemies. Every German, Italian and Japanese in South AMERICA and Central AMERICA will now have only the status of enemy aliens (and the circumstances of such in the otherwise hospitable lands of that continent are apt to be slightly unenviable!); none of them may operate a business or control their own funds; no enemy ship can put in to take them home; no enemy aeroplane may land anywhere on the two continents.

Altogether this is a fine addendum to the energetic action already taken by the Central American and Carribean Republics, who, rightly appraising the vital importance of leaving the Panama doorway between the Pacific and the Atlantic open for AMERICA'S two-ocean fleet, had already actually declared war on the Axis. (NICARAGUA, for instance, threw in HUNGARY, RUMANIA and BULGARIA, for good measure!).

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ALL EYES ON RUSSIA. After five months of watching the steady, purposeful progress of Hitler's armies into RUSSIA, it is difficult to appraise one's present hopes of the mighty swingback, by the standards of cool reason. "Too good to be true" and "too much to hope for" are natural, perhaps wise, mental qualifications. Even expert military critics have been afraid to commit themselves, beyond saying occasionally that "a critical phase is beginning" or something to that effect. First of all they talked of spirited counter-attacks; then they spoke of a grand counter-offensive being possible—but qualified it by saying that after their exhausting and costly retreat the former was about as much as we might expect from the Russians.

The astonishing verve and the persistent successes of the Russian armies during the last three weeks have staggered the world. Even cautious

commentators now say boldly that the Russian war has become a war of annihilation. Its outcome must be the complete destruction as a military power either of the German Reich or of the Soviet Union. They do not yet prophesy the ultimate result; they do not underestimate the fact that the German retreat is not a rout or a débacle. The enemy is fighting stubbornly all the way; and he still has great resources which will appreciate in value as the Russian communications become more difficult with distance. But the critics do rightly call attention to the following phenomena of the last few weeks :—

(i) Timoshenko started the ball rolling in the south. He could not possibly have done it, *without large reserves of fresh and highly-trained troops.*

(ii) Similarly well-trained, well-provided and well-clothed troops are following his example on the central and northern fronts.

(iii) In this lies proof that Stalin's famous leap-frogging back into the recesses of central and eastern RUSSIA of threatened factories and stocks, was magnificently organised and immediately effective.

(iv) In this also lies proof that British and American aid in mechanized vehicles, planes, and guns *was* on a large scale and of a promptness which was difficult to anticipate.

(v) The Siberian and Manchukuo armies of the Russians have not been depleted to achieve the counter-stroke. They are still in force in the east facing the Japanese.

Sir Stafford Cripps has recently provided an explanation for (i) (ii) and (v) in his public announcement that the Russians now have no fewer than 9,000,000 first-line troops!! This expert information must make Hitler scratch his head a bit.

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THE CORPORAL-GENERALISSIMO. With his tremendous command in retreat on every sector ever since he took over, Hitler seems to have committed at least one bad mistake. When fortunes changed so radically in the south in December, Von Brauschitz recommended something which Hitler simply couldn't contemplate (though now it is actually happening!) namely a general and substantial westward retreat, to which Hitler's answer was the 'sack' for the Field Marshal, and orders for large German forces to hold on at MOJAISK at all costs.

Consider the result. First remember that MOJAISK two months ago was the hub of the pincer attack on MOSCOW, the two arms of which enveloped the capital *via* KLIN in the north-east, and TULA in the south-east. Both these horns having been nipped off, a straightened German line should have withdrawn *as* a line if they were not strong enough to withstand the Russian counter-offensive. To satisfy Hitler, however, the 'hub' was to stand fast at all costs, with the result that the positional formation is almost exactly reversed. The *Russian* pincers threaten SMOLENSK *via* KALININ and STARITSA (and now also RZHEV) from the right, and *via* KALUGA from the left, while the large German forces who have already had to give up MOJAISK itself are in desperate danger of being surrounded.

The gap between RZHEV and KALUGA is a hundred miles wide, but note the strategic goals of the insistent Russians. Westwards from MOSCOW are four vital strategic railways :—

(i) Due west through RZHEV to RIGA.

(ii) South-west through VYASMA to SMOLENSK.

(iii) South-south-west through BRIANSK to KIEV.

(iv) Due south through TULA and OREL to KHARKOV and the CRIMEA.

A battle-line centred on SMOLENSK, which had secured such vast lateral communications north and south, would be in an extraordinarily advantageous position.

Now, the right arm of the Russian armies is already threatening RZHEV.

The left arm is astride the MOSCOW-BRIANSK railway, and is striking north-west against the MOSCOW-SMOLENSK line.

If our Allies capture these vantage-points, there is a north-and-south line running through them right down to KHARKOV, and on this line the Russians already hold KIROV and LYUDINOVO.

We need not be too hurriedly optimistic, but the fact remains that it is 170 miles from this great arterial route to the next one further west !

The Thing We are Fighting !

In its issue of January 27, "*THE MAIL*" had a leader about our Japanese enemy which deserves to be studied.

In India and many other countries in tbe East there is Expert Fifth Column work going on (particularly, of course, among the illiterate and the politically-dissatisfied), of which the object is to whitewash the character of the Japanese, and to suggest that they are a kindly folk, full of good intentions towards those whom, on their benign mission, they are forced to 'take over', and expert and humane administrators, to whom the British, for instance, cannot hold a candle !

Now, we have learned something about the German in the last two years! And it was a famous German himself who said that "the Japanese is the German of the East", so we think it worth while to expand somewhat the illuminating essay of warning in the "*Mail.*"

Our sources of information are the same as the "*Mail's*", so that the following extracts from a full despatch from the *Manchester Guardian's* China Correspondent in Dec. 1937 may be given the most precise credibility.

We shall be surprised if anyone ever again wants to make friends with the Japanese !!

JAPANESE TERROR IN CHINA.

On December 13, 1937, exactly one month after it had smashed the Chinese defence of Shanghai, the Japanese army entered the gates of Nanking, the Chinese capital, some 200 miles distant. This notable feat might well have gone down into history as one of the most spectacular military achievements of modern times. Actually, whatever credit might have been due on this score was discounted by the conduct of the Japanese troops in the cities which they occupied. As the Japanese army approached Nanking their aeroplanes distributed pamphlets declaring that "the Japanese troops exert themselves to the utmost to protect good citizens and to enable them to live in peace, enjoying their occupations."

On December 10, in calling upon General Tang Seng-chih to surrender the city, General Iwane Matsui, Commander of the attacking forces, had declared: "Though harsh and relentless to those who resist, the Japanese troops are kind and generous to non-combatants and to Chinese troops who entertain no enmity to Japan." To what extent the Japanese army lived up to these assurances the following account will reveal. This brief description of events immediatly after the Japanese entry of Nanking is taken from a letter, dated December 15, written

to friends in Shanghai by one of the most respected members of Nanking's foreign community who is noted for his fairmindedness :—

UNCONTROLLED DISTURBANCES.

"At Nanking many local people freely expressed their relief when the entry of Japanese troops apparently brought an end to the strains of war conditions and the immediate perils of bombardment. At least they were rid of their fears of disorderly Chinese troops, who indeed passed out without doing severe damage to most parts of the city.

"But in two days the whole outlook has been ruined by frequent murder, wholesale and semi-regular looting, and uncontrolled disturbance of private homes, including offences against the security of women. Foreigners who have travelled over the city report many civilian bodies lying in the streets. In the central portion of Nanking they were counted yesterday as about one to the city block.

"A considerable percentage of the dead civilians were the victims of shooting or bayoneting in the afternoon and evening of the 13th, which was the time of the Japanese entry into the city. Any person who ran in fear or excitement, and anyone who was caught in streets or alleys after dusk by roving patrols was likely to be killed on the spot. Most of this severity was beyond even theoretical excuse. It proceeded in the Safety Zone as well as elsewhere, and many cases are plainly witnessed by foreigners and by reputable Chinese. Some bayonet wounds were barbarously cruel.

"Squads of men picked out by Japanese troops as former Chinese soldiers have been tied together and shot. These soldiers had discarded their arms, and in some cases their military clothing. Thus far we have found no trace of prisoners in Japanese hands other than such squads, actually or apparently on the way to execution, save for men picked up anywhere to serve as temporary carriers of loot and equipment. From one building in the refugee zone, four hundred men were selected by the local police under compulsion from Japanese soldiers, and were marched off tied in batches of fifty between lines of riflemen and machine-gunners. The explanation given to observers left no doubt as to their fate.

SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION.

"On the main streets the petty looting by the Chinese soldiers mostly of food shops and of unprotected windows, was turned into systematic destruction of shop-front after shop-front under the eyes of officers of rank. Japanese soldiers required private carriers to help them struggle along under great loads. Food was apparently in first demand, but everything else useful or valuable had its turn. Thousands upon thousands of private houses all through the city, occupied and unoccupied, large and small, Chinese and foreign, have been impartially plundered.

"Peculiarly disgraceful cases of robbery by soldiers include the following: scores of refugees in camps and shelters had money and valuables removed from their slight possessions during mass searches; the staff of the University Hospital were stripped of cash and watches from their persons, and of other possessions from the nurses' dormitory (their buildings are American, and like a number of others that were plundered, were flying foreign flags and carrying high official proclamations from their respective Embassies); the seizure of motor-cars and other property after tearing down the flags upon them.

ATTACKS ON WOMEN

"There are reported many cases of rape and insult to women, which we have not yet had time to investigate. But cases like the following are sufficient to show the situation. From a house close to one of our foreign friends, four girls were yesterday abducted by soldiers. Foreigners saw in the quarters of a newly arrived officer, in a part of the city practically deserted by ordinary people, eight young women.

"Under these conditions the terror is indescribable, and lectures by suave officers on their 'sole purpose of making war on the oppressive Chinese Government for the sake of the Chinese people', leave an impression that nauseates.

Further details are given in the following vivid account by a foreign resident of Nanking who has spent almost the whole of his life in China. His letter has been left exactly as it was received by his friends in Shanghai, except that references of a largely personal nature have been deleted:—

CRIME AND HORROR

Nanking, China.
X'mas Eve, 1937.

What I am about to relate is anything but a pleasant story: in fact it is so very unpleasant that I cannot recommend anyone without a strong stomach to read it. For it is a story of such crime and horror as to be almost unbelievable, the story of the depredations of a horde who have been, and now are, working their will, unrestrained, on a peaceful, kindly, law-abiding people.

COMPLETE ANARCHY.

Complete anarchy has reigned for ten days—it has been a hell on earth. Not that my life has been in serious danger at any time; though turning lust mad, sometimes drunken soldiers out of houses where they were raping the women, is not altogether a safe occupation; nor does one feel perhaps, too sure of himself when he finds a bayonet at his chest or a revolver at his head and knows it is handled by someone who heartily wishes him out of the way.

To tell the whole story of these past ten days would take too long. The tragic thing is that by the time the truth gets out to the rest of the world [it will be cold—it will no longer be "news". Anyway, the Japanese have undoubtedly been proclaiming abroad that they have established law and order in a city

that had already been looted and burned, and that the down-trodden population had received their benevolent army with open arms and a flag-waving welcome.

However, I am going to record some of the more important events of this period as I have jotted them down in my little diary, for they will at least be of interest to some of my friends, and I shall have the satisfaction of having a permanent record of these unhappy days.

MASS EXECUTIONS.

December 15th.—Word came this evening that soldiers were taking all 1,300 men in one of our camps near headquarters to shoot them. We know there were a number of ex-soldiers among them, but we had been promised by an officer that very afternoon that their lives would be spared. It was now all too obvious what they were going to do.

The men were lined up and roped together in groups of about a hundred by soldiers with bayonets fixed; those who had hats had them roughly torn off and thrown on the ground,—and then by the light of our headlights we watched them marched away to their doom. Not a whimper came from that entire throng. Our own hearts were lead. Were those four lads from Canton who had trudged all the way up from the south and yesterday had reluctantly given me their arms among them, I wondered; or that tall, strapping sergeant from the north whose disillusioned eyes as he made the fatal decision still haunt me?

How foolish I had been to tell them the Japanese would spare their lives! We had confidently expected that they would live up to their promises, at least in some degree, and that order would be established with their arrival. Little did we dream that we should see such brutality and savagery as has probably not been equalled in modern times. For worse days were yet to come.

WOMEN ABDUCTED.

That morning (16th) cases of rape began to be reported. Over a hundred women that we knew of were taken away by soldiers, seven of them from the University library but there must have been many times that number who were raped in their homes. Hundreds were on the streets trying to find a place of safety. At tiffin time Riggs, who was associate commissioner of housing, came in crying. The Japanese had emptied the Law College and Supreme Court and taken away practically all the men, to a fate we could only guess.

Fifty of our policemen had been taken with them. Riggs had protested, only to be roughly handled by the soldiers and twice struck by an officer. Refugees were searched for money and anything they had on them was taken away, often to their last bit of bedding. At our staff conference at four we could hear the shots of the execution squad near by. It was a day of unspeakable terror for the poor refugees and horror for us.

Continuing his narrative in diary form the writer says :—

ROBBERY, MURDER, RAPE.

Friday, December 17th.—Robbery, murder, rape continue unabated. A rough estimate would be at least a thousand women raped last night and during the day. One poor woman was raped thirty-seven times. Another had her five months infant deliberately smothered by the brute to stop its crying while he raped her. Resistance means the bayonet.

The hospital is rapidly filling up with the victims of Japanese cruelty and barbarity. Opposite us were Miss Vautrin, Mrs. Twinem and Mrs. Chen, with a score of refugee women kneeling on the ground.

The sergeant, who spoke a little French (about as much as I do), insisted there were soldiers concealed there. I maintained that aside from about fifty domestics and other members of their staff there were no men on the place. This he said he did not believe and said he would shoot all he found beyond that number.

He then demanded that we all leave, including the ladies, and when Miss Vautrin refused she was roughly hustled to the car. Then he changed his mind: the ladies were told to stay and we to go. We tried to insist that one of us should stay too, but this he would not permit. Altogether we were kept standing there for over an hour before we were released. The next day we learned that this gang had abducted twelve girls from the school.

MORE OUTRAGES.

Saturday, December 18th.—At breakfast Riggs, who lives in the Zone a block away but has his meals with us, reported that two women, one a cousin of a Y. M. C. A. Secretary, were raped in his house while he was having dinner with us. Wilson reported a boy of five years of age brought to the hospital after having been stabbed with a bayonet five times, once through his abdomen; a man with eighteen bayonet wounds, a woman with seventeen cuts on her face and several on her legs. Between four and five hundred terrorised women poured into our headquarters compound in the afternoon and spent the night in the open.

Sunday, December 19th.—A day of complete anarchy. Several big fires raging to-day, started by the soldiers, and more are promised. Some houses are entered from five to ten times in one day, and the poor people looted and robbed and the women raped. Several were killed in cold blood, for no apparent reason whatever. Six out of seven of our sanitation squad in one district were slaughtered; the seventh escaped wounded to tell the tale.

Towards evening to-day two of us rushed to Dr. Brady's house (he is away) and chased four would-be rapers out and took all the women there to the University.

VANDALISM AND VIOLENCE.

Monday, December 20th.-Vandalism and violence continue absolutely unchecked. Whole sections of the city are being systematically burned.

FIRING SQUAD AT WORK.

Wednesday, December 22nd.–Firing squad at work very near us at 5 A. M. to-day. Counted over a hundred shots. The University was entered twice during the night, the policemen at the gate held up at the point of a bayonet, and a door broken down. The Japanese military police recently appointed to duty there were asleep.

Representatives of the new Japanese police called and promised order by January 1st. They also asked for the loan of motor-cars and trucks. Went with Sperling to see 50 corpses in some ponds a quarter of a mile east of headquarters. All obviously civilians, hands bound behind backs, one with the top half of his head cut completely off. Were they used for sabre practice?

On the way home for tiffin stopped to help the father of a Y. M. C. A. writer who was being threatened by a drunken soldier with the bayonet, the poor mother frantic with fear, and before sitting down had to run over with two of our fellows to chase soldiers out of Gee's and Daniel's houses, where they were just about to rape the women. We had to laugh to see those brave soldiers trying to get over a barbed wire fence as we chased them!

GROUPS BURNT ALIVE.

Thursday, December 23rd.—Seventy refugees were taken from our camp at the Rural Leaders' Training School and shot. No system—soldiers seize anyone they suspect. Callouses on hands are proof that the man was a soldier, a sure death warrant. Ricksha coolies, carpenters and other labourers are frequently taken.

At noon a man was led to headquarters with head burned cinder-black—eyes and ears gone, nose partly, a ghastly sight. I took him to the hospital in my car where he died a few hours later. His story was that he was one of a gang of some hundred who had been tied together, then gasoline thrown over them and set afire. He happened to be on the outer edge so got the gas only over his head.

Later another similar case was brought to the hospital with more extensive burns. He also died. It seems probable that they were first machine-gunned but not all killed. The first man had no wounds but the second had. Still later I saw a third with similar head and arm burns lying at the corner of the road to my house, opposite the Drum Tower. Evidently he had managed to struggle that far before dying. Incredible brutality!

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Christmas Day.—A perfect day too, as far as weather is concerned.

That day the American flag was taken from the Rural Leaders' Training School; seven soldiers spent that night and the night before in the Bible Teachers' Training School and raped the women; a girl of 12 was raped by three soliders almost next door to us, and another of 13 before we could send relief. There were also more bayonet cases; Wilson reports

that of the 240 cases in the hospital three-quarters are due to Japanese violence since the occupation.

At the University, registration commenced. The people were told that if any *ex*-soldiers were there and would step out, they would be used in the labour corps and their lives would be saved. About 240 stepped out. They were herded together and taken away. Two or three lived to tell the tale, and by feigning death after they were wounded escaped, and came to the hospital. One group was machine-gunned, another was surrounded by soldiers and used for bayonet practice.

Our list of instances of disorders and cruelty keeps mounting, and those we never hear of must be many many times what are reported or observed. A few of to-day's: A boy of 13, taken by the Japanese nearly two weeks ago, beaten with an iron rod and then bayoneted because he didn't do his work satisfactorily.

A car with an officer and two soldiers came to the University last night, raped three women on the premises and took away one with them. The Bible Teachers' Training School was entered many times; people were robbed and 20 women raped.

We have seen a couple of issues of a Shanghai Japanese paper and two of the Tokyo *Nichi Nichi*. These tell us that even as early as December 28th the stores were rapidly opening up and business returning to normal, that the Japanese were co-operating with us in feeding the poor refugees, that the city had been cleared of *Chinese* looters, and that peace and order now reigned! We'd be tempted to laugh if it all wasn't so tragic.

I have written this account in no spirit of vindictiveness. War is brutalizing, especially a war of conquest, and it would seem to me from my experience in this, as also in the Shanghai 'war' of 1932, that the Japanese army, with no background of Christian idealism, has to-day become a brutal, destructive force that not only menaces the East but also may some day menace the West, and that the world should know the truth about what is happening.

A Brave Man Speaks His Mind.

The Gestapo in Munster.

(*With acknowledgment to the "New Statesman and Nation"*).

On July 13th Bishop Clemens August preached in St. Lambert's Church, Munster, Westphalia, a sermon from which the following extract is taken. The sermon followed the severe bombing of Munster by the R. A. F. After expressing his sympathy with those who had suffered in the raid and speaking of the religious moral to be drawn from the raids, the Bishop proceeded:

"I had intended to offer you a few meditations on that subject to-day, but now I must abandon this idea, for I see myself obliged to speak of another terrible happening that has befallen us at the end of a horrifying week.

"Munster had not yet recovered from the appalling devastation which the external enemy and military adversary has caused us, when yesterday, at the end of this dreadful week, yesterday on July 12th, 1941, the Secret State Police, the Gestapo, confiscated both houses of the Society of Jesus in the city, Sentmaring House in Weseler Street, and Ignatius House in Konig Street, and yesterday forced the reverend Fathers and lay brothers to leave without delay, not only their houses, not only our city, but also the province of Westphalia and the Rhine province. The same hard fate has overtaken the good sisters in Steinfurt Street. Their convent has also been confiscated; the nuns are expelled from Westphalia and must leave Munster by 6 o'clock this evening. The houses and possessions of the two orders have been sequestered for the *Gauleitung* of Northern Westphalia.

"And so we see that the assault upon monasteries, which has been raging for sometime already in Austria, in Southern Germany, in the recently acquired territories of Western Poland, Luxemburg, Lorraine and in other parts of the German Empire, has now been let loose on Westphalia. We must be prepared for the repetition of such terrible news in the next few days, when one monastery after the other will be seized by the Gestapo, and their inmates, our brothers and sisters, the children of our families, true German patriots, will be cast out into the streets like criminal slaves and harried out of the country like obnoxious vermin.

"And why? We are told: for political reasons! Other reasons have not been stated. No inmate of these monasteries has been accused of any offence or crime, or summoned before a court or indeed sentenced. If any one of them is guilty, let him be brought before a court of justice. But should the innocent be punished, too?......

"Several times already, and quite recently, we have seen the Gestapo imprison blameless and honoured Germans without a verdict from the courts, and without an opportunity to defend themselves. They have been deprived of their liberty, expelled from their native places and interned in various parts of the country. In the last few weeks, even, two members of my immediate council, the Cathedral Chapter, were suddenly dragged from their dwellings by the Gestapo, deported from Munster and banished to distant places, which they have been forced to accept as their domicile.

"For the last few weeks I have received no answer whatever to the protests which I sent to the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs. But this much at least was learned when I telephoned to the Gestapo. The reverend Canons are under no suspicion or accusation of a criminal act......And yet they are punished with exile!

"And why? Because I, their Bishop, did something displeasing to the Government. When, in the course of the last two years, four vacancies in the Cathedral Chapter were filled, the Government announced in three cases that it did not approve of the appointments. Under the terms of the Prussian Concordat of 1929, interference from the Government is expressly forbidden; I therefore confirmed two of the four appointments. Let them bring me before the courts, if they think I have acted contrary to the law...... Every German citizen is utterly defenceless when confronted with the Gestapo. I repeat: utterly defenceless. Many of our fellow-citizens have experienced this personally during the last few years; for instance, our dear religious instructor, Friedrich, who is being held in prison without trial or sentence.

"No one of us is certain, even though he is conscious of being the truest, the most conscientious citizen, even though he knows that he is completely innocent—no one of us, I say, is certain that he will not one day be fetched out of his house, deprived of his liberty and shut up in the dungeons and concentration camps of the Gestapo.

"I am well aware that this may happen to me, perhaps to-day or on some future day. And it is because I shall then no longer be able to speak publicly that I will speak publicly to-day; I will openly warn them not to continue on this course, which I am firmly convinced will call down God's punishment on mankind, and bring our people and country to misery and ruin......

"The right to life, the right to inviolability and to liberty is an indispensable part of every moral social order. The State has, of course, the authority to restrict the rights of its citizens by way of punishment; but the State has this authority only as far as law-breakers are concerned, whose guilt must be established by an impartial court of justice. Any State which oversteps this divinely imposed limit, and permits or causes the punishment of innocent men, undermines its own authority......

"How many German citizens are languishing in police detention, in concentration camps; how many have been banished from their native places and yet have never been condemned by a public court of justice! How many, after being exonerated by the court, or after completing their term of punishment imposed by the court, have once more been seized by the Gestapo and kept under arrest! How many have been expelled from their native homes or from their place of work! I refrain from mentioning further names to-day. The name of an evangelical pastor who, in the last war, risked his life for Germany as a German officer and submarine commander, and has been deprived of liberty for years now, is known to you all. We have the greatest respect for his courage, and the bravery with which this noble German confesses to his Christian faith.

"From this example you see, dear brethren, that what I am publicly demanding to-day is not something denominational or specifically Catholic, but indeed concerns all Christians; it is a fundamental human, national and religous right.

"Justice is the foundation of the Commonwealth. With the greatest anxiety we see and deplore that to-day this foundation is being shaken; that justice, a natural and Christian virtue, which is indispensable to the ordered condition of every human community, is not being granted and maintained for all men in a clearly recognisable fashion. It is not only because the rights of the Church, the rights of the human personality, are threatened, but also because we love our people and feel deep anxiety for our Fatherland, that we beg, we ask, yes, we demand: 'Justice.' Who would not fear for the stability of a house when he sees that its foundations are being undermined?......

"My episcopal office, which requires that I defend the moral order, the oath, which I have sworn before God and the representative of the Government, to prevent, as far as possible, all harm which may threaten the German State, forces me to utter a public warning of the deeds of the Gestapo.

"My brethren, people will perhaps reproach me with weakening the home front of the German people through using such frank language during the war. To that reproach I make the following reply: It is not I who am the cause of any weakening of the home front, but those who, disregarding the war, disregarding external distress of the people, here, in Munster and at this time, at the end of a week of terror from fearful hostile air raids, impose hard penalties on innocent victims without a verdict of the courts or the possibility of defence. It is these men who destroy the security of the Reich when they punish our fellow-countrymen, our brothers and sisters, deprive them of their property, cast them out into the street and banish them from the country; it is they who undermine the sense of right, it is they who weaken the trust in our Government. And, therefore, I raise my voice in the name of the honest German nation, in the name of the majesty of law, in the interests of peace and the solidarity of the home front. Therefore, as a German, as an honourable citizen, as a representative of the Christian religion and as a Catholic Bishop, I cry aloud: We demand justice! If this cry remains unheard and unheeded, if the rule of royal justice is not restored, our German nation and country will, despite the heroism of our soldiers and their glorious victories, perish from inner corruption.

"Let us pray for all those in distress, particularly for our exiled monks and nuns, for our city of Munster, that God may spare us further trials. Let us pray for our German people, for Germany and its leader: Our Father Who art in Heaven......"

EUROPE: CONCENTRATION CAMP.

WHO IS PRO-NAZI? The clergy are pro-English because politics give more profit than the cure of souls. The clergy dislike dictatorship, desiring only the Church's dictatorship. A nun is pro-English because no nice people speak Flemish and German, and she much likes nice people's society. Don't forget Christ lived in Palestine, which is an English Protectorate, and thus Christ in some ways was an Englishman. Industrialists are pro-English because Nazism will give to everyone what he is entitled to, and industrialists like having much more. A workman is pro-English because he has not enough food and does not reflect on whose fault this is. He dreams about Communism and hopes for a change of róles with the rich. The bourgeois are pro-English as the eternal slaves of those paying and commanding Jews. The cowardly bourgeois are lavish with the blood of others. At the hearing of the R. A. F. motors they welter in voluptuousness at the sadistic breast of the bourgeois imagination, and hear the blood of workmen's children bubble in heavenly fountains.

(*National Socialist, Belgium*).

SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN. AUGUSTA BALKARTAT, whose husband belonged to the K. P. D., was sentenced at Insterburg to five years' penal servitude, for repeatedly listening to enemy broadcasts. She was so preoccupied with listening that she did not even hear Dr. Goebbels' broadcast about Germany entering the war against the Soviet, and was quite dumbfounded when other Volksgenossen told her about it.

(*Kónigsberger Allgemeine Zeitung*).

REPORT ON SPAIN. A GREAT Spanish statesman and writer once said: 'Spain without music would be like Athens without owls, Munich without beer or Paris without women.' To-day, Spain is a country without music. You can travel for days through Spanish cities and villages, you can frequent the restaurants and cafés of Madrid, Barcelona, Saragossa or Seville and never hear any music or songs. Spain has sunk into weariness and despair.

The bread, for three ounces of which people with bread cards stand in long queues, is almost inedible; it contains only 30 per cent of flour. Olive oil, sugar and meat are also rationed, on a scale which will seem incredible to Americans. Each person is allowed only three lumps of sugar and one ounce of meat a week. Fish, ham and potatoes are not rationed, but often there are no potatoes or fish on the market for weeks. Valencia, Cartagena and Malaga have been without eggs, milk or butter for the last four months. When I asked a peasant women between Molina and Guadalajara why she had no eggs, she answered, 'Where do you expect eggs to come from when the soldiers

have eaten our chickens?' A waiter in Merida from whom I ordered a 'Spanish omelet'—made of egg and potatoes—explained, 'To-day a tortilla Espanola is an omelet without eggs and without potatoes.' In certain regions—south of Toledo, for example—one is struck by the complete absence of dogs and cats; they have been eaten by the hungry population. The government finally had to destroy more than 30,000 dogs because of epidemics that resulted from eating dog meat.

One day in a Barcelona café a note was suddenly thrust into my hand. Whoever did it vanished before I could look around. The note read:—

> Spain has 26,000,000 inhabitants.
> Of these, about 13,000,000 are male.
> Of these, about 1,000,000 are in prison.
> About 1,000,000 are policemen.
> About 1,000,000 are bureaucrats.
> About 1,000,000 are in military formations.
> The rest—unemployed and beggars—number 9,000,000.
>
> Spain employs:
>
> 100,000 German agents and technicians.
> 40,000 Italian agents.
> 25,000 German labourers.
> 44,000 Italian labourers.

(HANS HABE in the *American Mercury*).

FROM A MAN ON THE SPOT.

UKRAINE USELESS TO HITLER WITHOUT OIL.
BALANCE-SHEET OF RUSSO-GERMAN WAR.
WHY AID TO SOVIET MUST CONTINUE.
ENEMY'S ABILITY TO STRIKE AGAIN.

by

Philip Jordan.

(*In a cable to the "News Chronicle" from Kuibishev.*)

More than six months ago—three weeks after the Russian war began—I came to Russia. Many faint hearts the world over have trembled time and again for the safety of both Leningrad and Moscow, but the Russians have smiled, somewhat grimly perhaps, at the sound of their sighs, and have never for one instant lost that confidence with which they entered the war.

The Germans have gained immense territories since they first attacked the Soviet Union 200 days ago; something not far short of 400,000 square miles. **But, for all the good it has done them, they might as well have captured an equivalent area of the Sahara Desert.**

WHAT GERMANS FOUND.

Contrary to the hopes inspired by their vanity, they found the population unanimously hostile and ready to destroy everything, rather than leave one stick or stone that could be of use to Hitler. Even the Ukraine, on whose potential riches German hopes were fixed, has turned to dust and ashes in their hands.

To force the Ukraine to produce its wealth, many things are needed which Hitler cannot supply—oil to start with. Whatever sufficiency of oil Hitler may possess for actual military operations, he has none whatever to spare for farming this gigantic countryside.

LIKE WATER TO A DIPSOMANIAC.

Unless and until he possesses himself of the petroleum resources of the Caucasus, the Ukraine is about as much use to him as a glass of water to a dipsomaniac. He has no horses to take the place of oil, and probably not nearly sufficient rolling stock to carry off the spoils, even if he could make them grow. And in addition, he is faced as strongly in the Ukraine as elsewhere by a terror that never slackens—the partisans.

But it would be an incorrect balance-sheet if the debit side were not to be written also. Russia has lost a number of important industrial centres, and, even though she made superhuman strides to overcome this loss by the removal of important plants or the rapid creation of others, her output naturally has suffered to some extent.

GERMANY NOT DESTROYED.

That is why, in spite of everything, it is essential that there should not be any slackening in Allied aid. And there is another and even more cogent reason why the flow of materials from our own country and from the United States must, even at some risk, be maintained. It is this.

As Mr. Churchill said in the United States, the power of the German beast to strike has been crippled, but it has probably not yet been permanently disabled. The Russians, who are great realists, would almost certainly delete the word "probably" from such sentiment. They are taking no risks whatever. They know that, however far they may force the Germans back this winter—and, when we get a really cold spell here, the Russian Army will probably once more astonish the world [a good prophecy! Ed.]—the enemy will strike again when spring comes, and strike once more with everything he has got.

NEW RUSSIAN ARMIES.

That is why new Russian armies are being created night and day; not new armies of untrained men, but new armies of men who have already done

their full training, and who have been kept up to the mark in the years since they actually served as soldiers. **While Hitler's cupboards get emptier and emptier, Stalin's get fuller and fuller.** Beyond that I would not like to prophesy.

The Soviet people have responded ungrudgingly to every call to sacrifice that has been made on them. They have suffered much, particularly those who became refugees, but I have yet to see one single sign of defeatism or fatigue with war. Nobody likes war, of course; the motto of the Soviet people, who did everything possible to avoid being drawn into the struggle, is that of Voltaire's Candide when he had learned wisdom. That motto was: "We only ask that we should be left alone to cultivate our garden." But, once it was too late to pursue any longer that homely policy, then the Soviet people threw themselves as wholeheartedly into the war as the British people did when they knew there was nothing else to do.

CONFIDENCE IN VICTORY.

During these six months I have had several opportunities of visiting the Army at the front and at home, and I can say that, even in the darkest days, I found nothing but a sublime confidence in ultimate victory, no matter what sufferings must be endured before it comes. **The Russian Army is the best equipped and best-cared-for army I have ever seen,** and I would say, after the small acquaintance which I have been able to make with it, that the **Russian Air Force matches up to the R. A. F.**—and higher praise than that I do not know.

It only remains to say that, during these six months, Britain has been represented here by an Ambassador to whose integrity and complete lack of minor human vanities the whole country owes a debt of profound gratitude.

MASS PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. AMERICAN METHOD. HOW VICTORY PROGRAMME WILL BE CARRIED THROUGH.

by

Edward Montgomery.

In a week during which the American people received scanty news of the actual operations in which their armed forces were engaged, and what news there was of these operations was hardly cheering, the chief stimulation came from the President's message to Congress. Here, set down in cold figures for all to read, was the blue-print of the tremendous task to which the American people were committed. Sixty thousand planes this year, rising to 1,25,000 next year; 8,000,000 dead weight tons of shipping this year, rising to 10,000,000 next year; 45,000 tanks this year, rising to 75,000 next; 20,000 anti-aircraft guns this year, rising to 35,000 next.

It is to be doubted whether German aircraft production was ever half the figure set for the American aircraft industry for the coming year by the

President. Indeed it may be doubted whether aircraft production in the whole world outside the United States ever reached the 60,000-a-year mark. Yet President Roosevelt is asking the United States aircraft industry to double that figure during 1943.

COLOSSAL BUT POSSIBLE.

The size of the production goals set by President Roosevelt in ships, tanks, planes and guns for this year and the next year is so staggering that at first sight one is inclined to be sceptical. The sceptic might point to the last monthly figures of American aircraft production, and ask how it is possible for an industry, which only two months ago was producing fewer than 2,000 aircraft per month, to maintain an average of 5,000 per month during next year.

The answer is to be found in American production methods. These do not contemplate a slowly and steadily rising production curve. When the manufacture of any new mass-produced article is projected—say a new model of automobile—the first question asked and answered is, "How many?" In the case of a new car model the answer may be, "A million". Then the production men go to work. Designs are approved, plant is expanded if necessary to reach the required daily output, factories are tooled up, raw materials purchased and stocked. All this takes time, but not until everything is ready, so that production at the required rate can be attained and maintained, does production start. Then, over-night, idle factories leap to life, and from making no cars a day they are producing 3,000 a day.

SWINGING INTO PRODUCTION.

A great part of the American armaments industry will during the next few months pass out the "tooling-up" stage into active production. Here, there and everywhere in the United States the great factories which have been planned, built and equipped since the American rearmament programme was laid down in the summer of 1940, will be swinging into full production. And, as they come into action, production curves in all categories of arms will leap upwards, not smoothly or steadily but in gigantic bounds of increases of thousands of each particular item from one day to the next. **So there is no need for scepticism about the figures the President has set, colossal though they are. They will be attained, probably surpassed.**

WHY FIGURES ARE REVEALED.

One other question may be: "The production figures of military arms and equipment are usually a country's most closely guarded secret. Why has the President seen fit to let the Germans and Japanese into the secrets of American production?"

For two reasons. The President knows that if his figures are attained in the next two years, it will not matter in the least whether the Germans and Japanese know them or not, for they will not have the slightest hope of producing on anything like the same colossal scale. And he knows, too, that the realisation of that hopelessness among America's enemies will be an important factor—if not the most important—in procuring their defeat.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXX—(*Batch 2*).

1942—

January	... 31, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
February	... 2, Monday ...	Nachandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachchilai ...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Kodumbalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil ...	10.15 a. m.
		Vengalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Konapattu ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Thursday ...	Panayappatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rangiyam ...	6.30 p. m.
	6, Friday ...	Malaikkudippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Tulaiyanur ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXXI—(*Batch 3*).

7, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
9, Monday ...	Karambakkudi ...	6.00 p. m.
	Kottaikkadu ...	6.30 p. m.
10, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m.
	Vadagadu ...	6.30 p. m.
11, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
	College (B) Tamil ...	10.15 a. m.
	Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
	Tirugokarnam ...	5.30 p. m.
	Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilakkurichchi ...	6.30 p. m.
12, Thursday ...	Valramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
	Embal ...	6.30 p. m.
15, Sunday ...	Nirpalani ...	6.00 p. m.
	Avoor ...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai, 1,000—31-1-42.